

releas 1
What is claimed is:

A method of processing an Internet site name comprising:
performing a regular expression comparison between a first Internet site name and
a character pattern at a Domain Name Server.

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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting said first Internet site name from a first computer system to said
Domain Name Server over the Internet.

10 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

transmitting a responsive message to said first computer system if a match is
found in said regular expression comparison.

15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said regular expression uses a UNIX regular
expression format.

20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format
 $\^d\{10\}\$.X.Y$ where X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level
domain.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $^{[0-9]+}\$.X.Y$
where X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level domain.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $\wedge d\{10\} \$. Z$

where Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain.

5 8. The method of claim 4 wherein said regular expression has a format $\wedge [0-9]+ \$. Z$

where Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain.

9. An apparatus for processing an Internet site name comprising:

a Domain Name Server adapted to perform a regular expression comparison

10 between a first site name and a character pattern.

10. A set of instructions residing in a storage medium, said set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor to implement a method of processing an Internet site name, the method comprising:

15 performing a regular expression comparison between a first Internet site name and a character pattern at a Domain Name Server.

11. The set of instructions of claim 10, the method further comprising:

transmitting said first Internet site name from a first computer system to said

20 Domain Name Server over the Internet.

12. The set of instructions of claim 11, the method further comprising:

transmitting a responsive message to said first computer system if a match is found in said regular expression comparison.

13. The set of instructions of claim 10 wherein said regular expression uses a UNIX
5 regular expression format.

14. The set of instructions of claim 13 wherein said regular expression has a format
10 *subclaim 3)*
 $^{\backslash d\{10\}}\$.\text{X}.\text{Y}$ where X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level
domain.

15. The set of instructions of claim 13 wherein said regular expression has a format
15 $^{\backslash [0-9]}+\$.\text{X}.\text{Y}$ where X represents a sub-level domain and Y represents a top-level
domain.

16. The set of instructions of claim 13 wherein said regular expression has a format
20 $^{\backslash d\{10\}}\$.\text{Z}$ where Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain.

17. The set of instructions of claim 13 wherein said regular expression has a format
 $^{\backslash [0-9]}+\$.\text{Z}$ where Z represents a geographically oriented top-level domain.